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THE CANTEN-REFUGE IN
FRANCE

(BY MARJORIE GRANT COOK)

The Canteen-Refuge in France, has a human warmth all its own. It is not quite like any other canteen because the are children in it, as well as soldiers and civilians. The laughter of a child soaring high and delicious above the grown-up voices is in itself an irresistible element of cheerfulness. The soldiers love their "p'tits freres," the small boys who envy them their blue coats, and beg to try on their steel helmets, and the refugee baby in her mother's arms is often captured for a few minutes' petting by the home-sick pere de famille, far from his own little ones.

The Canteen-Refuge is a refuge for the homeless who have had to flee before the Germans, or who have lost their means of support because of them, as well as a canteen for soldiers on leave, and a place where the almost destitute may come to be fed and warmed.

The first canteen of the sort sprang into existence in Paris on the day that France declared war. Some ladies took care of a little group of terrified women and children left destitute by the mobilization, feeding and lodging them in one room. Next day they collected a few francs in order to buy necessities with which to make their proteges a little more comfortable, and found that the original number was increasing moment by moment. They turned no one away. "Wait, my friend. We will find a place for you," they assured each anxious mother.

These were heroic days. In spite of the personal fear and suspense, these French ladies thought only of others, and their resources and devotion never failed. They prepared food and comforts for the men, sending them off to fight heartened by the assurance that their wives and children would be looked after. They fed and lodged the poor, cared for the sick comforted the desolate families, welcomed the refugee.

Thus the first Canteen-Refuge was founded. Similar canteens exist now in every arrondissement in Paris, and in most of the provincial towns, as well as on the Riviera. But the first one holds an allegiance, for it was there I worked for many months.

We had two dormitories at the top of the house for the children, and could at a pinch—accommodate forty infants. Some of the women employed in the kitchen or dormitories whose husbands were fighting had their families with them, and these slept elsewhere in the building, old building. A number of war-orphan lived permanently at the canteen, and many children who were refugees from the invaded territory passed through our hands. Once we had twenty-five chubby little Alsations, speaking nothing but German.

When we had nothing else to do we devised amusements for the babies, taking them to the Circus or to the Zoo, which they loved, or perhaps just out to the swings and the beloved Guignol—Punch and Judy—of the gardens.

Downstairs were the dormitories of the soldiers. We had fifty or more every night. Some were convalescents from hospital, some were discharged temporarily or permanently from the army and looking for work, others on their ordinary six days' leave. They got coffee and bread in the early morning, lunch at eleven, and dinner at six. The food was good and plentiful, and there was as much variety as possible, soup, stew, bread and beer, and fruit or salad for dinner. The soldiers and canteen children shared a big dining-room, and the casuals, poor of the quarter, and refugees, another room that seated sixty people, and was often filled six times over for a meal.

The helpers at the canteen—disturbances, who served the food and vegetables, who waited at table—worked alternate weeks among the soldiers and the poor. The first room was perhaps the more popular. The naughtiness, the gaiety of the children, the gratitude, the endearing smile of the poor were very attractive. The ladies did the housekeeping, and two of the girls went at six o'clock every morning to market at Les Halles. All supplies—excepting milk and bread—were given to the canteen, and the market people were always generous with their fish and fruit and vegetables. As it was Paris, the prettiest service was usually the most successful beggar, and came back with a bunch of flowers for herself added to her war-levy.

In the refugees' room, those who could afford it paid four francs for a meal, and there was an "out" department, where those who preferred it could buy food to carry away. One of the valuable activities of the canteen was an employment bureau, where every effort was made to secure work for women and civilians as well as for the soldiers.

We were always busy. Between breakfast and lunch we cut thick sandwiches of bread and meat for the men who were going back to the front. In the afternoon there might be a treat for the children, in the evening perhaps home-sick and crying babies to visit in bed and comfort. Every Sunday afternoon there was a concert. The artists of Paris are as generous as the market people. Nothing of effort or goodwill is withheld from those who are suffering so much to preserve the freedom of the world.

"THE INEXPLICABLE"

Sir Hamar Greenwood, M.P., speaking at the Royal Colonial Institute recently, said there would be days of depression—there must be in a war of this magnitude—but it was to his mind inexplicable that in this fourth year of the war their heroic soldiers were again and again called upon to face overwhelming superiority of numbers, when their great courage, and, he thought, their fine leadership, did not avail them. At any rate they had this, the best tonic, that the war had brought about, the splendid solidarity of the Empire, and an inspiring reunion of the English-speaking world, of which great and glorious Britain would always be the Mother Country and the home.

(32-8)

IN A SINN FEIN TOWNSHIP
DAY AND NIGHT.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT TO THE "DAILY TELEGRAPH.")

The omnibus of the Central Hotel was not at first sight distinguishable, but the cheerful odd-man with the name on his cap opened the door of a dingy carriage with "Imperial Hotel" in ancient letters along its side. It was explained to me that the name had been changed lately, and there had not been time to repaint it; but the odd-man's cap can hardly have been less than eight years old. We slowly rolled out of the station yard, drawn by a winter-coated horse which had a depressed spine, but also that unmistakable touch of ancestry that all horses in Ireland seem to possess. I said as much to the driver when we stopped. His blue eyes twinkled as he answered "Sure that never did his father any harm," pondering upon which I turned in to meet that unfeeling and spontaneous courtesy which the innkeepers of Ireland never lack. The hotel formed nearly one of the market square of Donaghry, a small town, now remarkable except that it had the reputation of being the centre of Sinn Feinism in what had recently inherited the honour of being the most rebellious county in all Ireland, now that Clare had been turned into a peaceful and prosperous district by the brutal Anglo-Saxon soldiery. There was no sign of trouble. Indeed, the waiter at my solitary luncheon said he could not understand why the parish priest had picketed the roads and ruined the Donaghry race meeting yesterday—"so he did." We lost forty pounds that day—so we did." My eye fell on a belated poster announcing that races would be held at Donaghry on the previous day, in aid of the Irish Red Cross Fund, and something made me feel a little sick. It was like coming face to face with a ghost that one had almost refused to believe in. "Did you go out and help picket the roads?" I asked. "What else?" said the man moodily, and he turned away.

Outside in the square there were two or three score men and women, besides the delightful and innocent children, who have done more to seduce the judgment of the visitor to Ireland than all the oratory of a fluent and imaginative race. It was a sunny afternoon, but there was no great business going on, probably everyone was saving himself for the market two days hence.

THERE AND HERE.

I leaned out of the window and felt the insidious charm of Ireland working within me. This is one of the intangible complications of Irish government. The island throws a spell over everyone sooner or later. An odd thing had been told me not a fortnight before, by a very distinguished member of the Irish Administration, and I began to understand what he meant. He said that he had once watched a policeman chasing a thief down Grafton-street in Dublin. "It was a good hunt," he said, "and every man there did his best to let the man escape." A few weeks later he was in London, and saw much the same incident, except that everyone helped the policeman. It was all the difference between the two countries in two short scenes, he said, and indeed, it seemed illuminating. But what illuminated me still more was his comment, after a moment's pause. "And the curious thing is that in London I sympathized with the policeman and in Dublin with the thief." It is a confession like that, from a man who is not only distinguished, but absolutely loyal and a notable in both capitals, which throws the best light upon the Irish impasse. Morals are said to be a question of latitude; eight degrees of longitude makes a chasm between English and Irish standards of law and order. The Har-dinge Commission allowed itself a very true and very new opinion when it reported, "Irishmen, no doubt, appreciate the maintenance of order, but they appear to have an inveterate prejudice against the punishment of disorder."

A Royal Irish constable—one of the thin black line that stands between Ireland and what the Cardinal described as little squares—in this land of eternal wayside talk no one spoke to him. I could imagine that his wife at her shopping and his children at their school were being taught the same grisly lesson—that in Ireland it is best to be on the side of the majority; and again I felt the chill of the grey Irish under-world. Few of those who know Ireland from hooks or from a visit of observation see this subterranean life. Only a few miles from this place, which you will not find on the best of maps—two old ladies had their house forced and searched by masked Sinn Feiners at mid-night; not a shop-keeper dare expostulate with truant Sinn Fein assistants. In broad daylight the farms are visited and shotguns surrendered at once to Sinn Fein patriots for fear lest a boycotting order should be made against them. The Government encourages the boycott; it has most practically endorsed the Sinn Fein methods. When a farm has remained uncultivated because of a boycott it is denounced and temporarily confiscated by the Government and the boycotters themselves put in occupation of it!

The waiter came and leaned out of the window beside me in a friendly way. He waved his napkin to a friend. "I'll see you later," he said, putting his hand linkingly to his mouth. "We will," said the other, and walked on. I asked the waiter what time dinner was. "One o'clock," I looked at my watch and said, "You'll have to be quick. It's half-past one already." The waiter's gaze never left the square below as he answered, "That's English time." It was not contemptuously said, but there was a faint trace of a challenge. Of course, the Irish are not going to have their time crushed under the heel of the English tyrant. Church and shop and farm kept the old time. The railway, the post office, and the constabulary kept summer time; and the hotel as a compromise had both.

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

KEEPING IN TOUCH.

EVERYDAY INCIDENT IN A GREAT BATTLE.

(BY HENRY ARNOLD.)

The battalion took up a position in rear of a wood, and halted. The sun was hot on their tin hats, and gas masks concealed their faces.

The colonel wiped his goggles, looked at his watch, and signalled his men to lie down as he moved off through the wood with the intention of finding out for himself the "tactical situation," which to him was exceedingly obscure.

A brigade of 18-pounders, somewhere near and to his left rear, opened up with a suddenness that made him start as their shells screamed overhead. These indications were enough. He raced back to his battalion, gave his orders, and moved off to the right, towards the valley—a valley of cloudy venom, reeking of death, flecked with flame, a valley of flying steel—the line of a German barrage of gas and high-explosive, killing the wounded, re-killing the dead.

The battalion changed direction, keeping under the tip of the crest, meeting a stream of wounded French making for the wood, and then they sat down while the barrage shrieked above them into the valley beyond. A solitary French officer, dazed, wounded, appeared, was questioned, waved his hand towards the opposite side of the valley, shrugged his shoulders as he turned to the front, and disappeared. The colonel grasped the situation. At any minute the enemy would discover the situation, and pour in men to widen the gap. Already his barrage was lifting out of the valley. Had he divined the crisis? Was he acting?

Orders were given. The officers and men were hitching up their packs and moving off when the colonel saw below him, advancing up the valley, the beginning of the Teuton wedge. Machine-guns and rifles opened fire, but, oh for some artillery, on such a target! Still, the battalion itself was busy. From the other side another rattle of fire began, and the wedge stopped dead, though others pressed forward into the storm of bullets, falling like rabbits in an Australian battue, but still the German hordes pressed on.

Suddenly there was the hoarse roar of a bayonet charge from the other side of the valley, answered by a yell from ours as the battalion ceased firing and "took to steel," charging down on the German spear-head. At the same moment a French and British barrage fell on the shaft of that straining mass of the Germans, guillotining it as the Allied infantry slaughtered a path for themselves till they met—

"The divisions on the southern sector remained in touch with our allies."

This is a good deal to be said for this refusal, as it means dislocating real time in the centre of Ireland to the extent of an hour but of an hour and a half.

When it came the mid-day dinner was something to marvel at. I have suggested that the King's writ halts in Donaghry; the Food Controller's edict never put its foot there. Beef in vast helpings and as many of them as you wished. Three loaves of bread were on the table to be cut from as everybody liked. Butter was heaped in a lordly glass dish, and a half-cheese stood waiting for attack. The waiter apologised because there was no marmalade—his gloomy tone suggested that this was another grievance against the British Government. The cooking was of the best, and there was no difficulty in getting a glass of whisky at any time throughout the day, and, as I really believe, throughout the night also.

THE NIGHT'S DOINGS.

It was at midnight that the strange thing happened. There was no moon. The streets had been silent and empty for an hour or more when the sound of marching feet could be heard in the distance. The column was a small one, and it passed ghostlike through the square and out above the town, and the chapel a new and a larger contingent came in from another side and tramped quickly beneath my windows. This must have been 120 strong at least, and before its leading four had reached the church two other bodies had made their appearance in the square from different directions. The men kept their dressing well and marched in absolute silence; they also appeared to make as little noise as possible, though they knew their presence was known to the constabulary, three or four of whom moved out with them, a tiny black group between two large companies. With them came a few women equipped as nurses, and a couple of others with pails and dippers took up their place beside the standstill in the middle of the square.

The various columns met in a field just outside the town, and paraded in battalion formation. The church clock struck eleven, and at once the leading company marched off back through the town, leaving a guard at a little bridge, at the cattle-pen in the square, at the railway bridge, and at every important road crossing and bridge within four miles of Donaghry. Other columns had done the same thing in other directions, and at two o'clock the township was picketed within and without by men who carried their day's rations and remained on guard till sunrise on the following morning. This is an exact account of what happened one Saturday night at the township I have called Donaghry, and that the manœuvre has been repeated in scores of other townships I have no doubt whatever.

The waiter looked a tired man next morning, for he had not attended the first mass also. I think, too, he wondered what my business was in the place. For there is no such precise bureau of information as that which Sinn Fein possesses, nor—and this is again one of the difficulties that have cropped up recently—are secrets so well kept from the authorities. The officer in charge of the constabulary said the night's work had a very serious side to it. I did not ask him what it was, but I could guess.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

[BEFORE HIS HONOUR THE CHIEF JUSTICE (SIR WILLIAM REES-DAVIES, K.C.).]

ARMED ROBBERY ON A JUNK.

Li Tsun, Li Tsang, Tsang Ki, and Lau Lum were indicted for committing an armed robbery at Tai Long, Mirs Bay, on June 7th.

The following were the jury:—Messrs. A. L. Alves, F. X. de Silva, W. F. Stone, A. C. Rahmad, M. Baptista, L. Hyndman, and A. H. Abbas.

Mr. G. H. Wakeman (Crown Solicitor) prosecuted. The prisoners were undefended.

The Crown Solicitor stated that "the four prisoners were charged with committing an armed robbery on a junk in the waters of the Colony. The robbery took place at about 10 a.m. on June 7th. Complainant's junk was sailing from Hongkong in the direction of Sai Yuen Chun when two long boats appeared and ordered the junk to anchor. Revolvers were levelled at complainant and his *fokis*, who immediately obeyed the order. The four prisoners clambered on to the junk and then threatened the occupants with knives and revolvers. They were driven into another boat, after which the robbers proceeded to a place in Chinese waters. The cargo, which comprised rice, peas, kerosene oil, etc., was then transferred to the robbers' boats. An hour or so later, the men were released, and they made their way to Shauiwan, where the matter was reported to the Police. On June 27th one of the *fokis* noticed the prisoners in a boat near Shauiwan and had them arrested.

Evidence was then taken. After the summing-up of the evidence by his Lordship the jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty against all the prisoners.

His Lordship, in sentencing the prisoners to undergo seven years' hard labour each and to receive twelve strokes with the "cat," said they had been found guilty on very clear evidence. He was not going to permit violence to be used towards harmless people. Had anyone been injured the prisoners would have had to undergo a very severe penalty indeed.

SENTENCES ON THE WOOD ROAD ROBBERS.

His Honour Mr. Justice Gompertz passed sentence, yesterday, at the Supreme Court, upon Chin Chun Hing, Loung, Chan Kwong, Fung Yew Ting and Chu Wa, found guilty of committing an armed robbery on May 19th at Wood Road.

It will be remembered that the sentences were postponed pending medical examination of the prisoners, as His Honour was strongly of opinion that corporal punishment should be inflicted.

Yesterday, His Honour sentenced the first prisoner to five years' hard labour and twelve strokes with the birch; the second and third prisoners to five years' hard labour each and ten strokes with the "cat." The fourth prisoner, who was found medically unfit, was sentenced to six years' hard labour.

FORGING A DOCUMENT.

His Honour also passed sentence on Lo Ho Sang, who was found guilty of forging a mortgage deed, and also of soliciting a forged document.

Prisoner, at the previous hearing, was allowed time till Monday, at his own request, to dispose of some property he possessed in the New Territories in order to raise enough money to repay \$200 to the woman he had defrauded.

Yesterday he informed His Honour that he had been unsuccessful in his attempt. His Honour thereupon sentenced prisoner, who had a previous conviction against him for larceny, to three years' hard labour.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. F. C. JENKIN, C.B.E.

EQUIPMENT.

Orders have been sent to the respective Contractors covering all applications received to date for Caps, Boots, Caps, and Covers, etc. Equipment Officers will see that applicants attend at the Contractors' shops.

INSPECTORS AND SERGEANTS. The D.S.P.R. requires the attendance of all Inspectors and Sergeants (other than Chief and Staff Inspectors and Staff Sergeants) at this office at 5.30 p.m., on Wednesday, July 24th.

HEADQUARTERS CLUB. The Band will play at the Club on Friday, July 26th, from 6 p.m. to 7.15 p.m.

STRENGTH. Cr. Sergt. 456 Brook resigns on being passed for military service.

By Order.

T. F. HOUNG, A.S.P. (R.) and Adjutant.

THE CONSCRIPTION TRIBUNAL

NINTH MEETING.

THREE MEN SET FREE OUT OF EIGHT.

A meeting of the Hongkong Conscription Tribunal was held in the Council Chamber yesterday afternoon, the Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., O.B.E., presiding over a full attendance of members. Eight cases were under consideration, and out of these three men were set free for military service. The results, briefly, were as follows:—

ASIATIC PETROLEUM COMPANY.

Mr. M. Maas, no exemption.
L. A. Cossart, exempt.
W. Manning, exempt.
In this Company, N. L. Watson, H. F. Bunje and A. Edwards have been rejected as medically unfit. R. E. Atwell is away on leave.

BROKERS.

H. Hancock, exempt.
The following brokers have been rejected as unfit:—P. Tester, E. B. Layton and H. B. L. Dowbiggin.

MESSRS. BRADLEY & CO.

K. S. Morrison, exempt.
F. Bevington, exempt.
There are no unfit men of military age in this firm.

7TH DAY ADVENTISTS.

A. Mountain, no exemption.

GRAND HOTEL.

W. Barker, no exemption.

RESULTS UP TO DATE.

So far the names of 231 men have been submitted to the Tribunal. Of these 97 were medically unfit, leaving 134 cases to be dealt with. The following is the result of the Tribunal's deliberations:—

No Exemption	31
Temporary Exemptions	20
Substitutions	6
Total Exemptions	78

ASIATIC PETROLEUM CO.

The first cases considered were those of the assistants in the Asiatic Petroleum Company. Mr. N. L. Watson, general manager, appeared on behalf of the Company.

The CHAIRMAN (to Mr. Watson)—We have read your papers and we understand that you put it to us that both Imperial interests—Admiralty supplies and that kind of thing—and the essential interests of the Colony require, first of all, that the Company's business should be carried on. You refer in your papers to a telegram sent to H.E. the Governor by the Secretary of State, in June, this year, which is before the Tribunal. This says:—“The Ministry of National Service ask that care should be taken not to dislocate the business of the Asiatic Petroleum Company by the withdrawal of any essential men for military service of any sort, as they are furnishing important war supplies, and you will, no doubt, take any steps necessary.” We do not ask you to say anything more with regard to that point, Mr. Watson, but you put it to us that all three men now before the Tribunal are essential men within the meaning of that telegram?

Mr. WATSON—Yes, most certainly.

The CHAIRMAN—Your pre-war staff was 20 Europeans, plus your marine department, where you had one man, an engineer, making a total of 21. There were also 17 others—and two ladies. In your staff to-day, the Europeans have decreased to 15, plus one lady, plus the marine department, which has increased from one to two, making 18 altogether with the lady. The others have been very largely increased. Five men have left Hongkong for military service. Several seem now to be going on leave. Mr. Bell, who is over-age, is at present away on leave. Will he be returning soon?

Mr. WATSON—On the 15th of next month; he is in Honolulu.

The CHAIRMAN—Is Mr. Bell included in the fifteen to-day in Hongkong?

Mr. WATSON—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN—Is Mr. Atwell of military age?

Mr. WATSON—Yes, but he does not belong to this office; he was transferred to Indo-China, but was unvalued out. He came here for a month or so, but was ordered away by the doctor. He may return; it is according to what his health is like. He was an accountant in 1914. He is not included in the present list of staff.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Pringle, who is over-age, is proposing to go to England and perhaps will join the army there?

Mr. WATSON—He is very anxious to do so. So far as the Company is concerned no definite plans have been made. As far as he himself is concerned I think he has definite plans.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Bunje, who is unfit, is also proposing to go on leave?

Mr. WATSON—The doctor wants him to go.

The CHAIRMAN—You, yourself, Mr. Watson, are proposing to go on leave?

Mr. WATSON—For the same reason. I do not want to go.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Hobbs, whose name was before us previously, recently left the Company to join Messrs. Moller. How long ago was that?

Mr. WATSON—I think in March this year. He did not go with our consent. He wanted to go and we could not stop him.

The CHAIRMAN (to Mr. Cossart)—You are 37 and married, and are in charge of the auditing department. You tell us that the department controls the accounts for the whole of South China, the Philippines and Formosa. Your department's pre-war staff was two Europeans and to-day it is one European with two Portuguese and other help.

The CHAIRMAN (to Mr. Manning)—You are 33 and married, and are assistant to the General Manager. You have been with the Company for nine years and you volunteered before the Military Service Commission last year.

The CHAIRMAN (to Mr. Maas)—You also volunteered last year before the Military Service Commission. You are 30 and single, and you are in the Company's by-products department. You say in your form that you do not ask for exemption.

The CHAIRMAN, continuing—Mr. Manning asks for temporary exemption to arrange family matters. Mr. Cossart states that, in his opinion, the objection of the Company is well founded.

Mr. Cossart—As far as the Company is concerned, I personally do not ask for exemption.

The CHAIRMAN (to Mr. Watson)—You put it to the Tribunal that with this considerable European staff of 15, plus the marine department, you cannot, by any rearrangement of the work or of the men in the office, spare anyone?

Mr. WATSON—I think it is out of the question, and I should like to ask that the marine department should not in any way be confused with the office.

Major Morgan applied for non-exemption in the case of two.

The CHAIRMAN—Which two?

Major Morgan—Mr. Manning and Mr. Maas.

The CHAIRMAN—What is Mr. Pringle's position in the office?

Mr. WATSON—He is an accountant. In 1914 we had Mr. Pringle and one European assistant for our local accounts, and two Europeans supervising the out-port accounts.

The CHAIRMAN—About how many agencies would that cover?

Mr. WATSON—About 300 Chinese agencies, and several others.

Mr. LANG—Who will do Mr. Pringle's work?

Mr. WATSON—We shall have to get another man from somewhere. One man cannot do the two jobs.

The Tribunal then considered the case in private, after which the Chairman announced that the decision of the Tribunal was that exemption would be granted to Mr. Cossart and to Mr. Manning and that no exemption would be granted to Mr. Maas.

MR. H. HANCOCK.

The case of Mr. H. Hancock was next considered.

The CHAIRMAN (to Mr. Hancock)—We have read your papers and we see—and, of course, we knew before—that you are an exchange broker, and are sole partner in the firm of Messrs. A. and S. Hancock, which is the oldest firm of exchange brokers in the Colony, having been established here for over fifty years. The business, we understand, has been in the hands of your family all that time. You ask for absolute exemption and you put it to the Tribunal that the essential interests of the Colony require, not only that there shall be exchange brokers generally, but your personal presence here.

Mr. HANCOCK—I think so, sir.

The CHAIRMAN—You have been single-handed in your firm for a good many years?

Mr. HANCOCK—Since 1907.

The CHAIRMAN—You have from time to time been away on vacation or business?

Mr. HANCOCK—Fifteen months at Home in twenty years.

The CHAIRMAN—How have you carried on in the case of absence?

Mr. HANCOCK—In 1908, when I went Home, I handed my business over to Stewart Brothers, Layton & Company and to a German. They carried on for me in a way.

The CHAIRMAN—Would it be practicable for the European exchange brokers here, who are over-age and unfit, to carry on the business during the war, in such a way—pooling the business and safe-guarding your interests?

Mr. HANCOCK—Not at the present moment.

The CHAIRMAN—You put it to us that a certain minimum number of exchange brokers is necessary, and that you have reached that number.

Mr. HANCOCK—That is what I am putting to the Tribunal.

The CHAIRMAN—You put it to us that no-one but an experienced exchange broker can do the work; it could not be done by a man with just ordinary commercial training?

Mr. HANCOCK—That is so.

The CHAIRMAN—The Tribunal has received a letter from the Chief Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to the effect that he and the managers of the other two British Banks—the Chartered and the Mercantile—all consider that your retention here is essential in the interests of the Colony's trade and that any further reduction of the present number of European exchange brokers would be detrimental to such interests. We gather that you yourself put the position in just the same way. Is there anything you want to add, Mr. Hancock?

Mr. HANCOCK—Nothing.

Major Morgan applied for non-exemption.

The Tribunal considered the case in private and, subsequently, the Chairman announced that Mr. Hancock would be exempt. The Chairman also called attention to the fact that Mr. Tester, whose name appeared among the list of brokers on the agenda paper, was not an exchange broker.

MESSRS. BRADLEY & CO.

The cases of F. Bevington and K. S. Morrison were then considered.—Mr. Plummer appeared on behalf of the Company.

The CHAIRMAN (to Mr. Plummer)—We have read your papers and we understand that you put it to the Tribunal that your Company are merchants and one of the oldest British firms here, having been established in China for more than 50 years.

We understand that during the war you have carried out important Government contracts for the supply of coal from Japan, chartering ships for the purpose and carrying through the whole of the work. You ask the Tribunal for absolute exemption for both men before the Tribunal. We understand that the Company's pre-war staff consisted of five Europeans and about seven Portuguese and Chinese and that the staff to-day has been reduced to three Europeans, that is to say, yourself, Mr. Bevington and Mr. Morrison, and that the Portuguese and Chinese remain practically the same. Two have left Hongkong for military service—Mr. Hill and Mr. Mitchell—and they have both, we see, obtained commissions. You tell us also that you may be obliged to go away shortly on business matters.

Mr. PLUMMER—It is possible.

The CHAIRMAN (to Mr. Bevington)—You are 38 and married, and are assistant manager. You have been, we understand, about 14 years with the firm. You speak Chinese, do you not?

Mr. BEVINGTON—Slightly.

The CHAIRMAN—You volunteered before the Military Service Commission last year. Is there anything further you wish to add?

Mr. BEVINGTON—Nothing.

The CHAIRMAN (to Mr. Morrison)—You are 31 and married, and are in charge of the piece-goods and other departments. You are an expert piece-goods man, trained in Manchester, and are in charge of the general correspondence of the firm with whom you have been for about 10 years. You volunteered before the Military Service Commission.

Mr. MORRISON—That is so.

The CHAIRMAN then questioned Mr. Plummer in some detail regarding the staffs the firm had in Swatow and Shanghai and asked if it would not be possible to transfer a man from either of those places if Mr. Bevington or Mr. Morrison went away.

Mr. PLUMMER replied that he had very carefully considered any possible rearrangement of the staffs in that way and had been forced to the conclusion that any such transference was impossible.

In reply to a further query as to whether he had anything further to add to what had already been stated Mr. Plummer replied that he did not know how far the Tribunal had been impressed by what had been written, but he had some further notes which he would like to place before them in private.

Major Morgan urged for non-exemption in the case of one.

Mr. PLUMMER—Which one?

Major Morgan—That is up to you.

The Tribunal, having heard Mr. Plummer, considered the matter in private and subsequently the Chairman announced that exemption would be granted to both Mr. Bevington and Mr. Morrison.

GRAND HOTEL.

The case of W. Barker was then considered.

The CHAIRMAN (to Mr. Barker)—You are 35 and single, and at present are engaged at the Grand Hotel. We have received a letter from the Grand Hotel saying that they do not ask for your exemption, and we understand that you do not ask for it.

Mr. BARKER—I am only too willing. I know the place where I am going and I am quite willing to go.

The CHAIRMAN—Then, Mr. Barker, you will go.

7TH DAY ADVENTISTS.

The case of A. Mountain, of the 7th Day Adventists, was the last considered.

The CHAIRMAN (to Mr. Mountain)—You are 28 and married, and you are a member of the body of the 7th Day Adventists. We have read your papers and we understand that you were born in New Zealand but have lived in Hongkong for the last four years. Have you, during the time you have been here, been a member of the Hongkong Defence Corps?

Mr. MOUNTAIN—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN—In your form you ask for absolute exemption on one ground only, that under Section 3 (c) the Ordinance does not apply to you. Is that not so?

Mr. MOUNTAIN—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN—That is a question, Mr. Mountain, which the Tribunal has no power to deal with. The Ordinance leaves entirely in the hands of the Governor-in-Council the question of the exemption of such regular ministers of recognised congregations as the Governor-in-Council may think fit and we are informed that it has been decided by the Governor-in-Council against you. You state no Imperial interests or essential interests of the Colony which may require your exemption. Do you suggest there are any now?

Mr. MOUNTAIN—No.

The CHAIRMAN—In these circumstances I do not think there are any more questions we need ask.

Major Morgan—Mr. Mountain has just been asked if he is a member of the Defence Corps. In the Ordinance under which the Defence Corps came into force there is the same thing about ministers of recognised religions being exempt. I should like to know whether Mr. Mountain made any claim with regard to his enrolment then.

Mr. MOUNTAIN—I made a claim.

Major Morgan said he had never heard of it, and claimed non-exemption.

The CHAIRMAN—The matter has been decided and has been taken out of our hands. Exemption cannot be granted.

Mr. MOUNTAIN—You say the Governor-in-Council has decided against me. Does that mean that it will be a waste of time to go before the Appeal Court of the Governor-in-Council?

The CHAIRMAN—It is open to you to appeal. The only point you have raised is that of being a member of this body of 7th Day Adventists. The Governor-in-Council has declined to grant you exemption on that ground. Now, we ask you whether you put before us any grounds that would make it proper for us to exempt you. You tell us there are none. The question can only be decided in one way. We cannot grant exemption. You have the right to appeal and it is not for us to say anything with regard to the likelihood of your success in appeal. The Tribunal then adjourned until Wednesday, at 3.30.

ALONE IN THE WORLD.

RELATIVES, FRIENDS, PROPERTY LOST AT CANTON.

SUICIDE THE EASIEST WAY OUT OF DIFFICULTY.

At the Hongkong Magistracy, yesterday, before Mr. J. S. Wood, a Chinese was charged with attempting to commit suicide.

Inspector O'Sullivan said that the man had only come down to Hongkong two days ago, and did not know anyone here. He engaged a small boat to take him to Yumati, and when he was in the middle of the harbour he jumped overboard. The boatman threw him a rope and the man took hold of it and was dragged back to the boat.

Mr. Wood pointed out that the doctor's certificate showed that the man was drunk.

Defendant replied that he got drunk in order to commit suicide. In Canton, he was a student in a school; his house had been destroyed and his people scattered. He did not know where they were now. He came to this Colony to search for his brother, and as he could not find him and knew nobody he decided to commit suicide.

Mr. Wood remanded the case for enquiries to be made.

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NEW GOODS JUST ARRIVED.

CRETONNES

NEW DESIGNS

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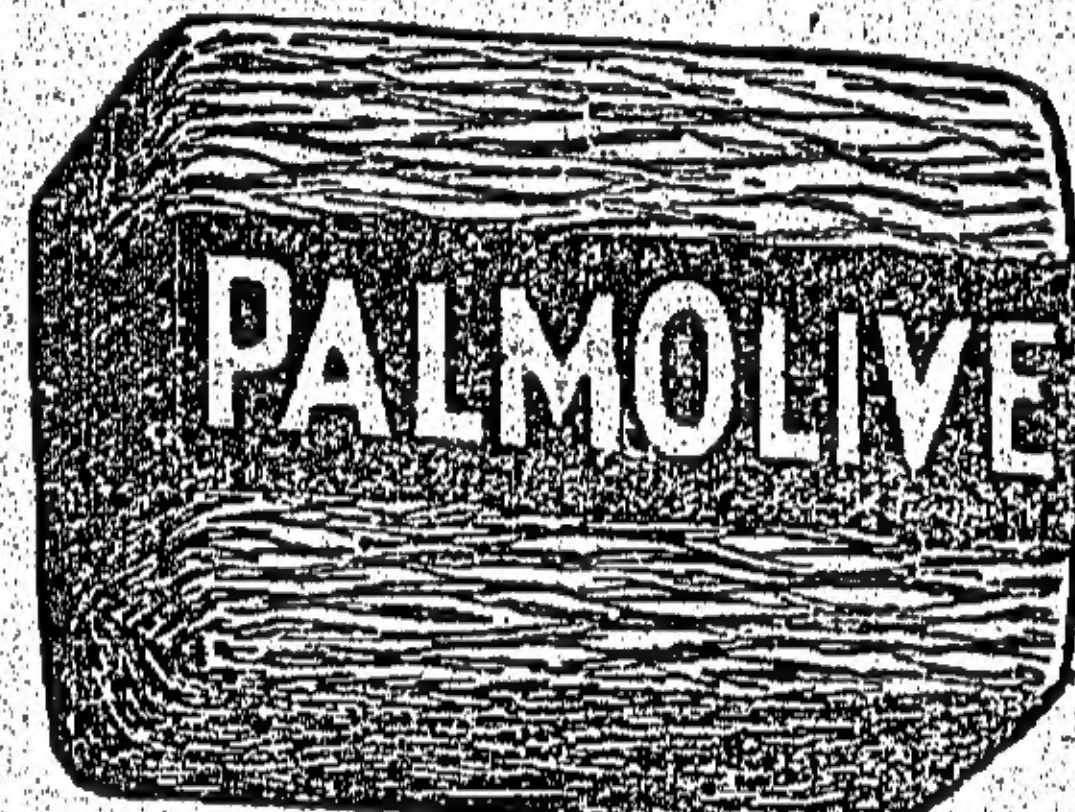
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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS.

AMERICAN CITIZENS Resident in the Consular District of Hongkong are herewith advised of the fact that the Department of State is desirous of calling in all expired and invalid PASSPORTS of this nature are, accordingly, requested to bring the same as soon as possible to the undersigned Americans whose place of residence makes it inconvenient for them to come to the Consulate General in person may send their Old Passports to the undersigned by Registered Mail.

Persons desiring to retain their Passports as souvenirs may do so after they have turned them in to the undersigned for cancellation.

American Citizens are, furthermore, urgently requested to keep their unexpired and valid Passports under lock and key and are herewith advised that they will be held accountable for the loss of such Passports.

A. E. CARLETON,
American Consul in charge.
Hongkong, 22nd July, 1918. [2251]

LOST.

FOX-TERRIER PUP. Black Face and Ears, White Back, White Legs, Short Black Tail. Answers to the name of "Spot." Brass Collar.
Satisfactory reward on returning to—
J. GREEN,
No. 2, Broadwood Terrace.
[2246]

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF HONGKONG.

PROBATE JURISDICTION.

In the Goods of ALBERT AHWEE otherwise CHAN PAK WAI (陳伯維) late of Victoria in the Colony of Hongkong, Merchant, and Owner of a DAIRY FARM, deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Court has, by virtue of Section 58 of Ordinance No. 2 of 1887, made an Order limiting the time for Creditors and others to send in their claims against the above Estate to the 31st day of July, 1918. All Creditors and others are accordingly hereby required to send their claims to the undersigned on or before that date.

Dated the 10th day of July, 1918.
JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER,
Solicitors for the Executor,
Princes Buildings,
100 House Street,
Hongkong. [2232]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS of the letting by Public Auction Sale, to be held on MONDAY, the 25th day of July, 1918, at 3 P.M., at the Office of the Public Works Department, by Order of His Excellency the Governor, of Eight Lots of CROWN LAND at Aberdeen, in the Colony of Hongkong, for a term of 75 years, with the option of renewal at CROWN RENT to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the King, for one further term of 75 years.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOTS.

No. of Lot.	Boundary Measurements (Approximate).	Containing in Acres, Roods, and Poles.	Containing in Acres, Roods, and Poles.	Containing in Acres, Roods, and Poles.
1. Lot 1.	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1.00	0.00	0.00
2. Lot 2.	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1.00	0.00	0.00
3. Lot 3.	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1.00	0.00	0.00
4. Lot 4.	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1.00	0.00	0.00
5. Lot 5.	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1.00	0.00	0.00
6. Lot 6.	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1.00	0.00	0.00
7. Lot 7.	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1.00	0.00	0.00
8. Lot 8.	100 ft. by 100 ft.	1.00	0.00	0.00

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

JUNKET!

Cannot be excelled with tinned or fresh stewed fruit.

COULOMMIER CHEESE!

COTTAGE CHEESE!

Nourishing and ideal food.

DEVONSHIRE CREAM!

Can always be had.

We supply Junket Tablet on application.

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PLANTING PAKRO SEEDTAPE is easy. You do not have to replant or transplant, because the seeds germinate and are the correct distance apart.

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HONGKONG.

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1837

INTIMATIONS

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

AN INTERIM DIVIDEND OF THREE AND HALF DOLLARS per Share for the six months ending 30th June, 1918, will be Payable on FRIDAY, 26th July, 1918, on which date Dividend Warrants may be obtained on application at the Company's Office.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from FRIDAY, the 19th, to the 28th July, 1918 (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be Registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 10th July, 1918. [2230]

THE WEST POINT BUILDING CO., LIMITED.

AN INTERIM DIVIDEND OF THREE DOLLARS per Share for the six months ending 30th June, 1918, will be Payable on FRIDAY, 26th July, 1918, on which date Dividend Warrants may be obtained on application at the Company's Office.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from FRIDAY, the 19th, to FRIDAY, the 28th July, 1918 (both days inclusive), during which period no Transfer of Shares can be Registered.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
A. SHELTON HOOPER,
Secretary,
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.,
General Agents for the
West Point Building Co., Ltd.,
Hongkong, 10th July, 1918. [2231]

NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or of African descent, desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE Station between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.

Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers. All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION or PERSONS ORDINANCE 1918.

Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations. The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50.

[2232]

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Princes Building.
[2232]

TO LET.

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Apply—
M. R. SPRINGETT,
Maple Bay, B.C.,
Canada. [2223]

TO LET.

COMMODOUS and Centrally Situated NEW OFFICES, with lift, in the old Mercantile Bank Buildings, corner of Queen's Road Central and Ice House Street.
Also in Canton House, No. 31, Shameen, British Concession.
For rent and further particulars apply to—
DAVID SASSOON & Co., Ltd.,
84, Des Vaux Road.
[2217]

TO LET.

HOUSES on Shameen, Canton.
No. 27, THE PEAK, LUSTLEIGH.
Apply to—
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD. [2232]

TO LET.

No. 7, STEWART TERRACE, No. 23 THE PEAK.
Apply to—
LINSTEAD & DAVIS,
1st Floor Alexandra Buildings.
[2208]

TO LET.

A SHOP in Nathan Road, Kowloon.
Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE
Co., Ltd.,
Alexandra Buildings.
[2200]

ON SALE.

A TABLE OF THE RATES OF EXCHANGE AT BOMBAY. For Demand Drafts on London on the day of or preceding the departure of the English Mails; also Table of the Yearly Approximate Average for 35 years.

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INTIMATION

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A small quantity mixed with either

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HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

TEL. 15.

[2232]

MARRIAGE.

GORDON-NEWMAN.—At Cape Town, South Africa, on July 13th, Captain RONALD EAGLESON GORDON, M.C. Royal Engineers, youngest son of Dr. and Mrs. GORDON, of Berkhamsdorp, Herts, to VERA, eldest daughter of Captain and Mrs. NEWMAN, Shanghai.

DEATH.

FORRESTER.—At the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, on July 14th, MARTHA, the dearly beloved wife of EDWARD D. FORRESTER, aged 40 years.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, Des Vaux Road, C. LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 22ND JULY, 1918.

A PRUSSIAN ON PRUSSIANISM

The many comments that have been made on Prince Lichnowsky's revelations seem to have missed one important point. The first disclosures were interesting on account of the facts which they brought to light, bearing on the origins of the war and the incidence of responsibility. Attention was afterwards directed to the astonishing methods followed by the heads of the Prussian State in dealing with their own representatives in foreign countries. As an indictment of Prussianism, this much sufficed, and it was difficult to account for the toleration extended to the author of the disclosures and his abettors. There was talk of severe disciplinary measures and prosecutions, but there were no signs of the flaming wrath that might have been expected. This fact encourages a closer study of the revelations, and some reading between the lines. The results are in part conjectural, but not uninteresting. Prince Lichnowsky was very much liked in England; he was dismissed from the country rather as an honoured guest than as a parting enemy. It was a characteristically English touch to regard him as a secret friend and to welcome the issue of his Memorandum as a service intentionally done to our cause. But he himself warmly disavows any such weakness. He knew that he was accused both of "Anglophilia" and of "Austrophobia." He replies that in politics there is no room for "phil" or "phoba"; nothing but the interest

of one's own community is to be considered. He lays down here the cardinal principle of "Realpolitik." He was not hostile to Austria, but he was opposed to "the insane Triple Alliance policy," because it conflicted with the interests of Prussia. It compelled the Prussian Monarchy to back the wild adventures of Austria. He does not complain of similar obligations to Italy, doubtless because he knew that they were ignored. "A policy," he says, "that is based only on Austrians, Magyars, and Turks, must come into conflict with Russia, and finally lead to a catastrophe." This was written before the collapse of Russia, and her opponents, wise after the event, will perhaps deride his fears, but he may reply that the end is not yet. At any rate, it was the policy of BISMARCK that he supported—alliance with Austria, no doubt, but friendship with Russia by way of re-insurance. There is nothing here that looks like a revolt from Prussianism. English policy and English statesmen he does justly. Two men in particular he delivers from unmerited abuse. He makes it clear that Sir EDWARD GREY was neither the Machiavellian plotter of war imagined by nervous Germans and some English fanatics, nor the pusillanimous blunderer depicted by others. He testifies that even before the war-clouds were lowering, Lord HALDANE rejected a formula for neutrality proposed to him, and gave a plain warning that England "would never tolerate a weakening of France." But though Prince Lichnowsky has a good word for English statesmen, their candour, their straightforwardness, and their genuine devotion to the cause of peace, it is not this admiration that points and envenoms his criticism of their Prussian opponents. The substance of his complaint is that, if his advice had been followed, these agreeable and easy-going gentlemen would have been drawn into a position extremely favourable to Prussian policy, and the Prussian State would have obtained by negotiation all, and more than all, that it could ever hope to gain by war. Nothing but the folly of his superiors at Berlin prevented him from securing the happy results for the Monarchy. In a word, despite his Polish name and his kinship with the Austrian and Russian ambassadors in London, he is at heart a thorough Prussian. The Prussian State, that singular and sinister institution, certainly has an attractive power over souls. From its inception it has been served, and served loyally, by men drawn from all nations of Europe. Prince Lichnowsky inherited a place in that service, and has held it without wavering. He is true to its traditions. He does not flinch from its principles; he complains only of their application. What he charges the Prussian Government with is not iniquity, but stupidity. It is a grave charge from the Prussian point of view, and we think he makes it good. We are not impressed by his consciousness of superior wisdom—his chiefs probably took his measure accurately—but he is not the less able to point out the blunders of his opponents. They are blunders because they multiplied enemies. After showing that the war was both really and obviously brought about by the will of those in control at Berlin, he comments: "In view of the above undeniable facts it is no wonder that the whole of the civilized world outside Germany places the entire responsibility for the world-war upon our shoulders. Is it not intelligible that our enemies should declare that they will not rest before a system is destroyed which is a constant menace to our neighbours? It is not the aims but the methods of the Prussian Government that he repudiates, and he objects to those methods only because they hinder the achievement of the aims. Shall we find here the secret of the toleration extended to the author of these revelations? He is that terrible being a candid friend, but he is a friend. He has no word of criticism for the KAISER, for the Hohenzollern tradition, for the aims and principles of the Prussian State. He finds fault only with the blundering servants of the dynasty. This criticism may be not altogether unwelcome in the highest quarters. Scapgoats may be wanted. Failure, if failure there is to be, must not be visited on the Supreme Head of the State. Those who can point to mistakes made by subordinates as the true cause of disaster may be found useful in a day of judgment. They may have an important part to play. When we find an ex-director of KRUPTA and a former Secretary of State supporting or defending Prince Lichnowsky, we seem to be aware of moves in a complicated game. Who knows but that the Prince may be the Reichskanzler appointed to negotiate peace?

The raffle for the cushion at Messrs. Wm. Powell, Ltd., in aid of St. Dunstan's Home for the Blind, was won by ticket No. 21.

The following cases of communicable diseases were notified in the Colony on Saturday:—Bubonic plague, 1 (1 death); cerebro-spinal fever, 1; diphtheria, 1 (1 death); enteric fever, 2 (1 death). All the sufferers were Chinese.

The Nicholas Tsu Engineering and Shipbuilding Works, Shanghai, a strictly Chinese plant, is now building two steel steamers for deep-sea work of approximately 3,000 tons deadweight each. They will measure 250ft. length between perpendiculars (362ft. over all), 40ft. beam and 25.25ft. depth.

Lieut. L. A. Harris, R.G.A., son of Mr. A. H. Harris, Commissioner of Customs at Kowloon, was recently awarded the Military Cross "for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. During two attacks he went under shell and machine-gun fire to the front line and brought back much valuable information."

The Governor of the Shiga Prefecture announces a plan to send presents such as handkerchiefs, postcards and other useful things to the Allied soldiers in France, and the Japanese naval men in the Mediterranean. This His Excellency conceives to be the best expression of his gratitude for the visit made by Prince Arthur of Connaught to his Prefecture.

A violent typhoon and rainstorm swept over the entire south-western portion of Japan, including the Luchu Islands, Kishiu and Shikoku (says a Reuter's cable dated July 12th). Considerable

damage was done to the railways, telegraphs and telephones, and communications were interrupted in many sections. The rivers were in flood and houses were inundated in Kobe, Osaka and the Kioto district.

We regret that the letter signed by "Wireless," recently published by us, should have been considered as a personal attack on the Acting District Officer (South). No such attack was intended, the letter being merely comment on the administration of the Southern District during the last 20 years by many District Officers and others. We have no grounds for believing that the present officer's administration has been in any way different from that of his predecessors who were included in the reference.

We have received from the Globe Encyclopedia Company a copy of "Present Day Impressions of the Far East," dealing with China, Hongkong, Indo-China and Malaya. Japan, we understand, is left over for separate treatment, and none who has subscribed to the present imposing volume will be likely to cavil at this. Consisting of upwards of 1,000 pages beautifully printed on heavy art paper, the work reflects great credit upon its producers. The illustrations, with which the letterpress is lavishly interspersed, are beautifully executed in colours and constitute a very striking and attractive feature. In the Hongkong section we notice an article from the pen of Sir Robert Ho Tung on "The Chinese of Hongkong." The compilation was started more than two years ago, but, taking into consideration the wide area covered and the difficulties of labour and transport incidental to the war, this furnishes no ground for adverse criticism.

Mr. W. H. Trenchard Davis, who left Shanghai for a health trip to Korea on May 18th, has had some unfortunate experiences (says the N.-C. Daily News). On arrival at Chemulpo he had an acute attack of lumbago and whooping-cough, which necessitated his going into the Severance Hospital in Seoul for eight days. He was still more or less confined to Mr. Atkinson's house in Chemulpo on June 20th when he met with a motor-car accident. The car was leaving Mr. Atkinson's house for an evening run when the Japanese chauffeur lost control and the car shot over the stone wall of the drive into the roadway below, a drop of more than 10ft. The car turned a somersault, and then landed on its side. Mr. Trenchard Davis, who was sitting beside the driver, was very badly bruised, cut, and shaken and had to be removed to the Severance Hospital in Seoul, where up to date of last advices he was making satisfactory progress. Although he had suffered intense pain around his chest and shoulders no bones were broken.

TYPHOON WARNINGS.

The following telegram has been received by the American Consulate-General, Hongkong, from the Manila Observatory:—

July 21st, 10 a.m.
Cyclone or typhoon near or over the northern Ladrones or Mariana Islands, moving W.N.W.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE SIBERIAN SITUATION.

Tokyo, July 18th.

It is reported that the Government has decided to intervene in Siberia. The necessary measures are being made.

(BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO.")

PROSPECTS OF PEACE.

Peking, July 22nd.

We are informed that General Lué Wing-ting has recently wired to the Peking Government stating that he will assist the Government to settle the prevailing unrest on the following terms:—
(1) That Parliament be re-convened.
(2) That he is allowed to resign the post of Inspector Commissioner of the two Kwangs.

(3) That General Lung Chai-kwong be ordered to leave Kwangtung.

(4) That all the troops in Hunan and the two Kwangs be included in the Imperial military list and supplied by the Government. All the politicians are eager to know the result of this cable. A general peace is expected.

It is reported that Liang Shiu-yeo has wired to Tso Kun requesting him to order an armistice on various fronts.

THE SALT REVENUE.

The Peking Government has agreed to take responsibility for the salt revenue seized by the Canton authorities.

FORMER ROYAL GUARDS.

General Lung Chai-kwong has recruited several regiments of the former Royal guards.

CANTON NEWS.

(BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO.")

CANTON, July 22nd.

TYPHOON.
A typhoon visited Canton on the 20th inst., shortly after noon. It blew strongly for several hours, and some damage was done. No casualties have yet been reported.

THE SPECIAL PARLIAMENT.
The Chairman of Parliament has requested the M.P.s. not to leave Canton, as the first meeting will be held on the 1st of August.

DR. SUN YAT-SEN.
A message from Shanghai states that Dr. Sun Yat-sen has just received a telegram from Tong Shiu-yeo, urging him to go to Japan to discuss certain important questions. Sun has decided to start next week.

THE RECENT GODOWN FIRE AT BELCHER'S STREET.

CORONER'S ENQUIRY OPENED.

At the Hongkong Magistracy, yesterday, Mr. J. R. Wood, held an enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the fire which occurred at Belcher's Street on the 16th instant.

Inspector McDonald stated that when he arrived on the scene of the outbreak he found that 39a, 39c and 39d, Belcher's Street, were alight on the ground and first floors. The other buildings were not then alight, but the fire was spreading rapidly. Water began to play on the fire immediately, but the pressure was not strong enough. Two deliveries were used at first, but later, when some other deliveries were put on, the pressure failed. The construction of the buildings was such as to assist the fire. It seemed to him that the fire originated on the ground floor of 39c. 39a and 39d escaped owing to the direction of the wind and the supply of water from the fire-floats. By 8.20 the six houses were ablaze and by 9.30 the conflagration was got under control.

The Coroner—I see from your report that the fire spread for want of sufficient pressure. What do you mean? Witness: I mean that an 8 or 9 inch main would have got the fire under control.

The Magistrate said the enquiry was being held by request of the insurance companies interested. The Police reported that there was no suspicion of arson. The enquiry was adjourned.

A SISTER'S SACRIFICE.

Miss Edith Aiken, aged 22 years, a school teacher, has died at her residence in London, Ontario, as the result of the removal of a piece of skin from her arm to be grafted upon her wounded brother, Lieut. Colonel Aiken. The officer's condition was critical when grafting could be used, Miss Aiken bravely sat conscious through it all. Her brother is now progressing favourably. Another brother, Lieutenant Douglas Aiken, has been killed in France.

THE WAR.

GERMANY'S OFFENSIVE CHECKED. BRITISH FORCES PARTICIPATE IN BATTLE. FRENCH ENTER CHATEAU THIERRY. EX-CZAR EXECUTED. BRITISH AVIATORS BOMB ZEPPELIN SHEDS.

Franco-Belgian front.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE BRITISH FRONT.

RAIDS AND PATROL ENCOUNTERS.

LONDON, July 21st.
1.35 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We captured a few prisoners and machine-guns during night raids and patrol encounters south-westward of La Bassée and in the Merville and Dickebusche sectors.

EARLIER CABLES.

MINOR OPERATIONS.

LONDON, July 21st.
12.30 a.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—Minor operations in the Hebuterne sector are being continued with success.

Our pressure compelled the enemy to withdraw from Rossignol Wood, between Hebuterne and Bucquoy. This important local feature is now in our possession.

We followed up the enemy, who suffered a number of casualties.

Our total captures at Meteren are 453 prisoners, 10 trench-mortars, and 50 machine-guns.

AERIAL OPERATIONS.

Our aeroplanes on July 19th dropped 17 tons of bombs on hostile dumps, railway stations and aerodromes.

Our aviators on one occasion dropped bombs on an aerodrome from a height of from 100 to 500 feet. One pilot landed in an aerodrome and machine-gunned the hangars before rising.

We brought down 10 aeroplanes and six balloons. Seven British machines are missing.

Our night-fliers, despite the weather, dropped 14 tons of bombs on railways between Mons and Valenciennes, and on stations at Cambrai, Lille and Saelin. A direct hit was obtained on a train at Saelin.

BRITISH LINE ADVANCED.

LONDON, July 20th.
2.25 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—As a result of the operations yesterday our line in the Meteren sector was advanced on a front of about 4,000 yards, and the village of Meteren, with the group of buildings to the south-westward, is now held by the British.

On the extreme left the enemy offered considerable resistance.

At other points our objectives were gained rapidly and without difficulty.

We captured 428 prisoners.

The British troops carried out a successful night-raid near Beaumont-hamel.

Further north British troops, after sharp fighting, pushed the line forward on a front of about a mile southward of Hebuterne.

There was hostile artillery firing in the neighbourhoods of St. Venant and Ypres.

LATEST CABLES.

FRENCH FRONT.

FRENCH TROOPS ENTER CHATEAU THIERRY.

PARIS, July 21st.

A communiqué states that the French troops entered Chateau Thierry this morning.

VIOLENT FIGHTING.

Violent fighting is proceeding north and south of the Ourcq, and between the Marne and Rheims.

Despite a desperate resistance by the Germans we continued to make progress.

BRITISH TROOPS IN BATTLE.

LONDON, July 21st.
4.20 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, telegraphing at eight o'clock this morning, states:—

The British troops participated in the battle for the first time yesterday between Rheims and the Marne in the region of Ardre.

The British took up positions at night-time and attacked immediately with complete success, advancing over a mile.

GERMAN PRESS COMMENT.

AMSTERDAM, July 21st.

The German newspapers do not conceal their chagrin at the Entente's victory on the West Front.

Kölnische Volks Zeitung (Berlin), after referring to the false hopes entertained in Germany about the new offensive, says it is no longer necessary to conceal the fact that German deserters utilised their knowledge and planned the operations to betray the Fatherland. It is impossible to deny that the offensive failed. The German people anxiously but patiently await the new decisions demanded by the situation.

Frankfurter Zeitung says, Generalissimo Foch has managed to form a formidable attacking army and is now trying to snatch the initiative from the German Command. The tremendous expenditure of fighting strength involved in such an effort may lead to a bad mistake on the part of the French Army. The warring off of the German blow succeeded, despite great enemy losses, but the counter-offensive failed, and freedom of action remains in the Germans' hands.

Cologne Gazette says, "As has happened on other occasions, for instance, on the Somme, we must concede the loss of prisoners and guns, but even so, the enemy's leading idea is that the break through was not attained. Despite tremendous enemy exertions, we were able to hold up the counter-offensive before it attained any strategic advantage worth mentioning. Continuous changes of position are the logical outcome of the open warfare now in progress."

HOLLAND IMPRESSED.

The Allied victory has made a deep impression in Holland.

The Telegraaf says that anything is now possible. The capture of 400 guns will fill the Germans with consternation.

Landelblad says the double Franco-American success will revive French courage and rejoice the Americans, whose young army proved capable of vigorously attacking the Germans.

Nieuws van de Dagen says the greatest importance of the victory is the scoring of a tactical and partly even a strategic success against the German commanders. Even if the Germans recovered their advantageous position, the fact remains that the spell of the all-surpassing German Army Command is broken, which emphasises the great strategic advantages achieved by Generalissimo Foch in a few hours only. The paper says the Germans received a hard slap at their attempt to break through, and failed in a fashion signifying an Allied victory.

AMERICANS AGAIN BREAK ENEMY RESISTANCE.

LONDON, July 21st.
9.50 a.m.

An American communiqué, issued to-day, states:—Between the Aisne and the Marne we again broke the enemy's resistance and continued to advance, taking many additional prisoners.

FALL OF SOISSONS IMMINENT.

WASHINGTON, July 21st.

General March, in his weekly statement, says:—The objective of the Franco-Americans between the Aisne and the Marne is the Soissons-Chateau Thierry railway, the control of which will impede the German retreat from the south of the Marne.

General March believes that the Germans had prepared an offensive against the British northward on the French front simultaneously with the offensive on July 15th, but for some reason it has failed to materialize.

General March is of opinion that the fall of Soissons is imminent. He says the significance of the events in France is not that the Allies are holding the Germans or gaining ground, but that they are taking the offensive, which is of the greatest moral value.

(THROUGH HAVAS AGENCY.)

STUPENDOUS GERMAN EFFORT CHECKED.

LONDON, July 21st.

Havas Agency at Paris, on July 19th, stated:—The Franco-American troops, having in three days checked the German stupendous effort on the Marne and Champagne front, took the offensive and dealt the enemy a series of staggering blows between the Aisne and the Marne.

Along a 28-mile front, extending from west of Soissons to north-west of Chateau Thierry, the Franco-American forces broke deeply into the enemy's powerfully organized lines, many points of the advance being several miles. The attacking forces reached the plateau dominating Soissons from the south and west and recaptured more than 20 villages, and captured several thousand prisoners and many guns.

The attack was launched at daybreak and raged throughout the day and is still in progress.

The enemy was taken quite by surprise, as the attack was made practically without artillery preparation.

General Mangin's famous troops with the American forces went forward with wonderful dash, supported by tanks and protected by a heavy barrage.

The heavy pressure on the Villers-Cotterets front has been relieved by this advance.

The enemy made no move between Chateau Thierry and Argonne yesterday.

The German army between the Marne and Rheims turns its back to that which is being pushed back between the Aisne and Marne. With but little more than 20 miles between these two armies, the position of the forces south of the Marne thus becomes perilous.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

EARLIER CABLES.

AMERICAN REPORT.

LONDON, July 20th.
5.30 a.m.

An American communiqué states:—Between the Aisne and the Marne we continue to make progress.

FRANCO-AMERICAN ADVANCE CONTINUES.

PARIS, July 20th.

A communiqué states:—Yesterday and during the night Franco-American troops continued to advance along the major portion of the front between the Aisne and the Marne.

We reached Vierzy, passed Monloy Wood to east of Villers-Helon and captured Neuilly-Saint Front and Licy-sur-Clignon.

South of the Marne we drove back the enemy between Fossy and Oeuilly, and gained ground in the direction of the Marne.

ENEMY COUNTER-ATTACK WITH LARGE RESERVES.

LONDON, July 20th.

A communiqué states:—The battle continued very violent to the end of the day.

Between the Aisne and the Marne the enemy counter-attacked with large reserves, attempting to arrest our advance, which, however, continued on most of the front.

On the left we maintained the plateau south-west of Soissons and the region of Chaudun in the centre.

We passed over by three kilometres certain points on the line Vaux-Castille-Uillershelon-Noroy-sur-Ourcq.

On the right we conquered, after severe fighting, the plateau north-west of Monnes hill, north of Courchamps, and advanced beyond Torcy.

FRENCH CAPTURES OF MEN AND GUNS.

So far over 17,000 prisoners have been counted, including two colonies and their staffs. Three hundred and sixty guns have been captured, including a battery of eight-inch guns.

ALLIED AVIATION WORK.

Our aviators, on July 18th, in conjunction with the British squadrons were most active on the whole battlefield. The French felled or disabled 20 machines and set fire to two balloons. The British destroyed seven machines.

Our bombers continued their attacks on the Marne crossings and demolished a foot-bridge and machine-gunned, bombed and dispersed concentrations of troops at Oulchy, Vaux Ravine, Fere-en-Tardenois, and Oeuilly.

Projectiles were showered upon stations in the rear, causing fires and explosions.

Twenty-two tons were dropped during the day and 21 tons at night. The British dropped 21 tons.

GERMAN AVIATION INFERIOR TO ALLIES.

Several fires and explosions were observed at stations.

Simultaneously infantry and aeroplanes marked the advance of our troops.

Tanks between the Aisne and the Marne reported the arrival of enemy reserves and participated directly in the battle by machine-gunning the latter.

Twenty-six German aeroplanes were felled or disabled as a result of numerous air fights with Franco-British pilots. Four balloons were set on fire. Everywhere the German aviation was inferior to the French.

VERY BITTER FIGHTING.

LONDON, July 20th.
12.35 a.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, telegraphing at two o'clock yesterday afternoon, stated:—The night was relatively calm on the Aisne-Marne front.

The French are pressing on the line of new positions captured during the day.

This morning German reserves were brought up in considerable strength, and the fighting was very bitter.

Over 10,000 prisoners were captured yesterday and over 50 guns between the Marne and Rheims.

The enemy lost a good deal of ground during the day. The move up the river towards Epernay seems definitely arrested. He is fighting to-day between Oeuilly and Montoisin on the ground he occupied on July 16th.

GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, July 21st.
1.05 a.m.

A wireless German official report states:—The enemy again attempted to breach the whole front from the Aisne to the Marne. Tanks early penetrated our foremost lines, but the first enemy thrust was defeated by noon on the heights south-westward of Soissons and westward of Hartinnes and St. Neuilly and north-westward of Chateau Thierry. A further attack in the evening broke down. We threw back the enemy northward of Hartinnes beyond the original lines. We withdrew unnoticed to the north bank of the Marne during the night.

GERMANS RETREATING TO THE NORTH.

LONDON, July 20th.
7.20 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, telegraphing to-day, states that the Germans are recrossing the Marne and retreating northwards.

GERMANS CONFIRM RETREAT.

LONDON, July 20th.
11.34 p.m.

The German retreat across the Marne is confirmed by a German semi-official report, which laboriously explains that the object of the first crossing of the Marne was to divert the French forces. As this was achieved it was unnecessary to further hold ground south of the river. Therefore, the troops were withdrawn to fulfil important tasks.

GERMANS COMPELLED TO RETREAT.

PARIS, July 21st.

A communiqué states:—The result of our victorious counter-offensive is soon apparent. The Germans, violently attacked on their right flank and south of the Marne, were compelled to retreat and re-cross the river.

We hold the whole of the south bank. Franco-American troops between the Aisne and the Marne continue to make progress, and have driven back the enemy, who is resisting stubbornly.

We reached Ploisy and Percyigny and passed St. Remy-Blanzy and Rozet-St. Albin.

Farther south we hold a general line from Priez Plateau to north-east of Courchamps.

Violent fighting is in progress between the Marne and Rheims.

Franco-British troops, attacking vigorously, encountered large forces, but, notwithstanding the desperate enemy resistance, we gained ground in Courban wood, the Ardre Valley and towards St. Euphrasie.

FRENCH PRISONERS EXCEEDED 20,000.

The number of our prisoners since July 18th exceeds 20,000.

Over 400 guns have been captured.

Our aviators, redoubling their efforts, have multiplied their raids day and night. On July 19th, they fiercely fought enemy forces.

Franco-British bombing squadrons, making the Marne crossings their chief objectives, have ceaselessly hampered, and at some points completely stopped, enemy supplies. Thus an important factor in the enemy retreat is the machine-gunning and bombing of concentrations of the enemy preparing to counter-attack. On his columns and convoys they have inflicted heavy losses.

Twenty-four tons and 25 tons of projectiles were dropped during the day and night, respectively, upon the Marne and the rear of the battlefield.

STRUGGLE ON RIVER BANKS.

LONDON, July 20th.
7.30 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, telegraphing at 11 o'clock to-day, states that the Allies are repulsing the Germans on the southern bank of the Marne and are approaching the banks of the river.

Aerial Activities.

LATEST CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

QUENTIN ROOSEVELT.

DEATH CONFIRMED.

WASHINGTON, July 21st.

A German aviator has confirmed Quentin Roosevelt's death.

President Wilson has sent a message of sympathy to Col. Theodore Roosevelt.

The Balkans.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE MACEDONIA OPERATIONS.

BULGARIANS LOSE HEAVILY.

PARIS, July 19th.

An Eastern communiqué states that the enemy at the Cerna Bend attempted several raids upon Italian positions, but were brilliantly repulsed. The Bulgarians lost heavily.

ENEMY RETIRE IN DISORDER.

LONDON, July 20th.

An Italian official report states:—The enemy attacked westward of Hill 1,050, in Macedonia. We firmly held up the thrust, and, counter-attacking, compelled the enemy to retire in disorder.

Aerial Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

GERMAN ZEPPELIN SHEDS ATTACKED.

TWO AIRSHIPS DESTROYED.

LONDON, July 20th.

The Admiralty announces:—Aeroplanes despatched from a detachment of the Grand Fleet, operating off the Jutland Coast, yesterday morning carried out two attacks on the Zeppelin sheds at Tonbern, in Schleswig.

All our machines but one reached the objective.

We scored direct hits on a large double shed, which was completely destroyed.

Two other sheds were hit, but owing to the force anti-aircraft fire and the volume of smoke emitted from one it was impossible to observe whether the destruction was complete.

The attacks were made from a height of from 700 to 1,000 feet.

Four British aeroplanes did not return, of which three landed on Danish territory.

It is assumed that two Zeppelins were destroyed.

HANGAR GUTTED.

COPENHAGEN, July 20th.

British airmen daringly attacked the Zeppelin station at Tondern at 4.30 a.m. on July 19th.

An eye-witness saw three machines bomb the air-sheds. Between twenty and thirty bombs were dropped, four of which hit a great hangar. The walls of the latter, being constructed of stone and steel, were non-inflammable, but the inside was burnt out and two Zeppelins were destroyed.

BRITISH RAIDERS INTERED IN DENMARK.

COPENHAGEN, July 21st.

Three British aeroplanes, returning from Tondern, were fired on by German warships and chased by German aeroplanes. The fight ended on the Danish border. The three airmen landed at various points in Denmark and were interned. They say that a bomb was dropped and exploded on a great ammunition dump at Tondern.

Both British and German warships were seen all day off the west coast of Jutland. The British warships fired on German aeroplanes, one of which fell into the sea.

BOMBING GERMAN TOWNS.

LONDON, July 21st.

The Air Ministry reports:—Our squadrons on the night of July 19th bombed the chemical works and docks at Mannheim.

A fire broke out at the Badische Aniline Works.

We also effectively bombed two aerodromes and bombed and machine-gunned trains and road transport. One machine did not return.

We attacked Offenbourg and Oberndorf on Saturday and hit an engine-shed at the former place. Bombs were observed on factories and railways at the latter place. Our formations were heavily attacked, but we destroyed one and drove down two enemy machines. Three of ours did not return.

Naval Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

CUNARD LINER SUNK.

LONDON, July 19th.

The Cunard liner *Carpathia* (14,000 tons), outward bound, was torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic on July 17th. The survivors are being brought in.

LATER.

The *Carpathia* was torpedoed three times.

All on board were saved, except five of the engine-room staff.

AMERICAN CRUISER SUNK.

WASHINGTON, July 20th.

America has announced that a cruiser has been sunk, without loss of life.

LATEST CABLES.

LATEST DETAILS.

NEW YORK, June 21st.

It was an armoured cruiser that was sunk. The cause is unknown.

Three hundred and thirty-five of the crew are known to have been landed.

The Navy Department reports that 11 and 66 others are on board two steamers proceeding to an unnamed destination, all well.

(Continued on Page 6.)

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SHANGHAI	"TAISANG"	Fri., 26th July, 8 p.m.
MANILA	"LOONGSANG"	Fri., 26th July, 8 p.m.
TIENSIN	"CHITSHING"	Sat., 27th July, 8 p.m.
SHANGHAI	"WOSANG"	Sun., 28th July, 8 p.m.
MANILA	"YUNESANG"	Fri., 2nd Aug., 3 p.m.
SANDAKAN	"MALISANG"	Sat., 3rd Aug., 3 p.m.

CALCUTTA LINE.—This line is temporarily discontinued owing to the war, but at present a monthly service is maintained with Calcutta by the s.s. "KWAISANG" and "VILIA". Calling at Singapore and Penang. The former vessel has excellent passenger accommodation, is fitted with Electric Light and Fans, and carries a fully qualified Surgeon.

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THE WAR.

(Continued from Page 5.)

Italian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.
(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

ITALIANS CAPTURE POSITIONS.

LONDON, July 20th. 7.05 p.m.
An Italian official report states:—Our detachments at Adamello captured Mount Stabel and completely re-occupied Cornodi-Cavento. The enemy left many dead and numerous prisoners on our hands, besides a large quantity of war material.

General.

LATEST CABLES.
(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

SPANISH MINISTER RESIGNS.

MADRID, July 21st.
The Minister of Marine has resigned.

AUSTRIAN NEWSPAPER RENOUNCES SUBSIDY.

AMSTERDAM, July 21st.
The *Colonge Gazette*'s correspondent at Vienna states that the semi-official *Freidenblatt* has renounced the Foreign Office subsidy in order to have a free hand towards the Austrian Government. The Foreign Office had complained of the paper's attitude and had demanded that it at least should be neutral.

AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

CZECHS CAPTURE BIRSK.

AMSTERDAM, July 21st.
A message from Berlin states that a Moscow despatch says that the Czechs have captured Birska, the Soviets withdrawing.

GERMAN GUARD FOR EMBASSY AT MOSCOW.

AMSTERDAM, July 21st.
The *Rheinische Westfaelische Zeitung*'s correspondent at Berlin states that the Soviet Government, while refusing to agree to the proposal that a German battalion be sent to Moscow to protect the Embassy, consented to the employment of several hundred German soldiers in mufti.

THE BRITISH LANDING ON MURMAN COAST.

In connection with the Murman landing, Trotsky ordered the Soviet soldiers not to support the French and British officers and not to permit them to go from one town to another, and to watch them carefully, as they were conspirators against the Russian people.

EARLIER CABLES.

EX-CZAR SHOT.

A wireless Russian official report states:—The Central Executive Committee has issued a message made public from the Ural Regional Council concerning the shooting of the ex-Czar.

Ekaterrinburg was being seriously threatened by the approach of the Czech-Slovaks, and simultaneously a counter-revolutionary conspiracy to wrest the ex-Czar from the Council's authority was discovered. The Ural Regional Council, therefore, decided to shoot the ex-Czar Nicholas, which decision was carried out on July 16th.

LATER.

The Central Executive Committee approved of the shooting of Romanoff. The latter's wife and son were sent to a place of security. Important documents concerning Romanoff, including the diaries he kept till the last, diaries of his wife and children, and letters by Rasputin to Romanoff and family, will be published shortly.

CHOLERA AT MOSCOW AND PETROGRAD.

LONDON, July 20th.
A Russian official wireless report mentions that there are 234 known cases and 73 suspected cases of cholera at Moscow and 190 cases at Petrograd.

THE DISASTROUS FIRE AT FEZ.

LONDON, July 21st.
Reuter's Agency has received details of the disastrous fire at Fez in June, which was attributed to German incendiaries. The outbreak started at five o'clock in the morning at four points simultaneously in the great Kaimaria Bazaar and destroyed 9,000 square yards of the very centre of the commercial quarter, where there were nearly 1,000 shops, 25 to 50 per cent. of whose stocks were silk, cotton and candles and half the stocks of native manufactures. The French authorities acted most energetically and blew up the surrounding houses. This stopped the fire at the very doors of the Carouine Mosque and the famous sanctuary of the Mulah Idiss, which had a very narrow escape. The Moors are grateful for the masterly fashion in which the French saved these shrines.

CHILDREN BRUTALLY MURDERED IN BOHEMIA.

ZURICH, July 20th.
The details of the brutal murder of five school children and six others at Pilsen on June 21st have only now become known through an interpolation in the Reichsamt. It appears that a crowd of women and children watching the loading of a bread wagon at the Skoda Works began to cry "We are starving. We also want bread." Suddenly an infantry patrol appeared, and without an order to disperse or a single word of warning, fired a volley from behind into the crowd, killing five children between the ages of 10 and 13 and severely wounding four men, one of whom died, and two women.

AMERICA THANKS BRITISH EMPIRE.

LONDON, July 21st.
President Wilson has despatched a message on behalf of Americans thanking the British Empire for the celebrations on July 4th.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE STRIKE AT WIGAN.

LONDON, July 20th.
Owing to the operatives' contention that it would mean the continuous unemployment of a large number of men the operation of the Cotton Control Board's "playing off" order has been postponed for a fortnight, from July 20th, for a further consideration of the whole question of part-time in the Lancashire cotton trade. Two thousand workers at Wigan Cotton Mills have struck owing to a dispute as to whether the recent 25 per cent. advance in wages is on the present or pre-war wages basis.

DUCKBOARDS.

MOST USEFUL FURNITURE IN THE TRENCHES.

The word "duckboard" conveys to the average civilian an impression of a plank leading up to the diminutive entrance of a poultry house. But to a soldier who has seen service in France or Belgium that same word conjures up a vision of trenches, desolate stretches of mud, and rest billets behind the line.

In the immediate neighbourhood of the firing line the duckboard is ubiquitous. It consists of two pieces of wood about six feet long with a number of eighteen-inch cross pieces nailed to them in such a way as to form a long narrow grating. It is an essential part of the furniture of a well-ordered trench. The method of use is to dig the trench a foot deeper than is actually required. Stout cross pieces are fixed at the proposed floor level, and on these the duckboards are laid. In this way there is ample room for water to drain away while the men occupying the trench walk dry-shod. In the early part of the war, when the duckboard was yet to be invented, a very little rain converted your trench into a miniature river, and the floor was always inches deep in mud.

It is advisable to nail the duckboards securely to the supports. Otherwise they are liable to be displaced and drop you into the water and mud beneath. Or you may happen to tread on the extreme edge of one of them, and it will turn on its side. When you come a nasty cropper. Also, round about Ypres and in other wet sectors, it was a frequent occurrence, if the boards had not been properly secured, to stand on one and see the next floating downstream. Then you had to wade.

OTHER USES.
Duckboards are useful apart from trench flooring. They have been adapted to all manner of purposes. Three or four placed across the top of a trench and covered with a couple of layers of sandbags make an admirable shrapnel-proof shelter. If the floor of your dug-out is damp a few duckboards laid on it will enable you to keep dry. But you require good supply of empty sandbags with which to pad the boards, for they make a most uncomfortable bed. The edges of the cross pieces cut into your side like knives. Behind the actual trench system there are frequently miles of country churned up into thick, sticky mud. These are crossed by tracks made of duckboards placed end to end over which whole battalions have to pass in single file. There is a firm path a foot and a half wide, and if you are so unfortunate as tostep off you are floundering in an apparently bottomless sea of the variety of mud peculiar to Flanders.

Clear of the fighting zone, in the region of small villages in which our troops enjoy their well-earned spells of rest, the duckboard is still in evidence. In the rest camps they form paths between the huts and tents, and, as the majority of French villages are innocent of sidewalks, temporary ones are constructed of duckboards.

There are a thousand and one other things for which duckboards are used. In cases of emergency they can be used, upside down, as stretchers, and they have even been known to disappear mysteriously when the occupants of a dug-out required fuel for their braziers. Of the many things which have been introduced to lessen the discomfort of life in the trenches the duckboard is one of the most important. But no one who has heard the average private swear when carrying them up the line would think so. They are not heavy, but are extremely awkward to carry, especially along a winding trench.

WEATHER REPORT.

July 22nd, at 12.25.—No returns from Japan and Vladivostok. Pressure has decreased slightly at the majority reporting stations; there is no apparent change in distribution since yesterday. The typhoon is situated to the N. of Guam, probably moving N.W.

Hongkong rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.36 inch. Total since January 1st, 44.53 inches, against an average of 47.50 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows:—

DISTRICT	FORECAST
Hongkong to Gap Look ...	(S.W. winds, moderate; cloudy, some rain.)
Formosa Channel ...	(The same as No. 1.)
South Coast of China between Hongkong and Lamoo ...	(The same as No. 1.)
North Coast of China between Hongkong and Hainan ...	(The same as No. 1.)

HONGKONG TIDE TABLE.

From 23rd to 28th July, 1918.

HIGH WATER.					LOW WATER.				
Days of Week or	Days of Month	High		Height	Days of Week or	High		Height	
		Time	Mean			Time	Mean		
Tues.	23	h. m.	ft. in.		h. m.	ft. in.			
		5 14	7 7		1 38	3 0			
		10 5	4 1		3 04	0 4			
Wed.	24	h. m.	ft. in.		2 25	2 8			
		8 57	8 0		4 18	2 2			
		10 3	4 4		4 18	0 8			
Thurs.	25	h. m.	ft. in.		3 12	2 2			
		9 47	7 9		4 53	0 6			
		11 10	4 6		5 03	2 4			
Fri.	26	h. m.	ft. in.		3 58	1 6			
		10 38	7 7		5 50	0 6			
		11 45	4 8		6 46	2 1			
Satur.	27	h. m.	ft. in.		4 7	2 3			
		11 4	7 2		6 7	1 1			
					6 7	2 1			
Sun.	28	h. m.	ft. in.		5 38	1 2			
		0 5	5 0		6 45	1 6			
		0 5	8 5						
Mon.	29	h. m.	ft. in.		6 44	2 5			
		1 9	5 3		7 34	2 5			
		1 10	5 7						



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C. N. C.
CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
SHANGHAI	“KAIPOK”	On 23rd July, 11 a.m.
SHANGHAI	“SUNGKIAN”	On 23rd July, 5 p.m.
SWATOW AND SINGAPORE	“TAMING”	On 24th July, Noon.
TIENSIN	“HUICHOW”	On 26th July, Noon.
SHANGHAI	“SINKIANG”	On 26th July, 3 p.m.

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“HAIKONG” ... | Capt. J. W. Evans | TUESDAY, 30th July, at 1 p.m.

Arrivals and Departures from the Company's Wharf (near Hake Mts).

For Freight and Passage, apply to—
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Steamers	Leave Hongkong	Connecting Mail	Despatch	Due at
COLOMBO	10 a.m.	Str. from COLOMBO	MARSEILLES	LONDON

When Passengers change Steamers at COLOMBO.
Accommodation in the connecting Steamer from COLOMBO is definitely reserved in Hongkong at the time of Booking.
On the Australian Route Tickets interchangeable with Orient Line.

SAILINGS DIRECT TO
SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE AND
YOKOHAMA.

S.S.	LEAVE HONGKONG ABOUT

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IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE MAIL STEAMERS,
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CARRYING 1ST AND 2ND SALOON PASSENGERS AT REDUCED RATES.
Proposed SAILINGS:

STEAMERS.	Leave Hongkong about	Leave SINGAPORE about	Due at MARSEILLES, if sailing about	Due at LONDON about
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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expected of which they have received documents or advice.
Any damaged packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignees and the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GODDARD & DUGAN, at 10 a.m. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognized. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godowns.
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DESTINATION	STEAMER & DISPLACEMENT	SAILING(DATES)
SHANGHAI & KOBE YOKOHAMA	INABA MARU ... 12,600 tons	17th Aug. 11 a.m.
NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	TANGO MARU ... 13,500 tons NIKKO MARU ... 9,600 tons	17th Aug. 11 a.m. 14th Sept. 11 a.m.
SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE		
LONDON or LIVERPOOL via SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, DELAGOA BAY & CAPE TOWN		
MELBOURNE via MANILA, ZAMBOANGA, THURS, IS, TOWNSVILLE, BRISBANE & SYDNEY		
NEW YORK via SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, SAN FRANCISCO & PANAMA CANAL		
BOMBAY via SINGAPORE, MALACCA & COLOMBO		
CALCUTTA via SINGAPORE, PENANG & RANGOON		

§ Omitting Shanghai and/or Moji. † Wireless telegraphy.

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Next SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

1. SHIWA MARU ... WED., 14th Aug., at 11 a.m.
2. FUSHIMI MARU ... WED., 11th Sept., at 11 a.m.

† Omitting Manila Eastbound.

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Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong
KOREA MARU ...	20,000	TUES., 18th Aug.
SIBERIA MARU ...	20,000	THURS., 29th Aug.
TENYO MARU ...	20,000	SUN., 8th Sept.

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NIPPON MARU ...	11,000	Nov. 6th

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